

## Incidents

Your Commission has tried to so mark the position of the different units and by actual survey and measurements, that the markers which we have planted and the maps which we have prepared, may be a sure guide to the public, and the descendants of the soldiers that fought the battle, and point to the very spot where their fathers stood in the greatest battle ever fought on West Virginia soil.

Milton Butcher, who was Jackson's courier, carried the last order that his chief gave. The order was to Colonel Derrick, and read, "Fall back to pike, west of artillery." He delivered the dispatch but his horse was killed and he was captured, but made his escape.

Major Kester, who commanded the 46th Battalion, was in front of the 28th Ohio. He stopped their advance and they were giving back, whereupon Kester shouted to his men to stand firm for two minutes, saying they were whipped, but before the two minutes were up the 10th West Virginia coming up as Colonel Moor says in his report, "just in the nick of time," turned the tide of battle, and the Major found it more convenient to run than stand.

About this time, the Confederate line was reinforced by four companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry dismounted. They poured a deadly fire from behind a rail fence into the ranks of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, and especially into Company F, which happened to be in an exposed position, and many of its members were being shot down, and many wounded and some of its members began to fall back. Their Captain was in prison and the First Lieutenant was on staff duty, and the company had but one commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Bender. John D. Baxter, the orderly sergeant was in advance of the company. At this point our Chairman saw the condition of the company and went up to Baxter and requested him to get back and help line up the company. To this request Baxter never replied, but rushed up and kicked two or three rails off of the fence and they both jumped over the fence and Baxter received a mortal wound. W. F. Morrison, W. M. Barnett and John A. Blagg we believe were the next to cross the fence, and while crossing Blagg was badly wounded and Barnett had a leg shot off. Morrison escaped unharmed. The man who shot Barnett gave his life

for the cause he espoused. George H. Morrison, Silas Carr and M. D. Shaver were the next of Company F to cross the rail fence. This occurred near the close of the battle. No braver man than J. D. Baxter ever espoused a cause or went to war. A few moments after this Major Bailey of the 22nd Virginia was mortally wounded, while trying to rally his men to make another stand. He was an officer and soldier of courage and daring.

Two most pathetic scenes occurred at that battle: After the battle, a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded, and among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night, and Short discovered a dead soldier, and took hold of his body to remove him to the place where they were bringing the dead and wounded together. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldier's hand, and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that it was his brother, John. He, therefore, called for some one to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother, and when he had the light he discovered for a certainty that the man was his brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newlon, many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew the lifeless body of his brother.

This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever, to our knowledge, been recorded in the annals of warfare.

After the battle, a young woman was observed going among the Confederates, looking intently into the face of each one. On being asked what she was looking for she said, "I am looking for George." She was the guest at the house of Colonel McNeill. She had recently married and was the wife of Captain George I. Davison, of Lewis County. George had gone through the battle unharmed and was far from the scene of conflict when his wife was looking among the dead.

While every battle has its tragedies, its heart rending scenes, yet in most every battle there is some amusing incident. James Sisler was Colonel Jackson's brigadier quartermaster, and had charge of the trains and ordinance supplies. He recently related that at the close of the battle when they were on the retreat and in great confusion, he rode up to Colonel Jackson and asked him what he would do with the wagon train, and Jackson said "Damned if I know." Sisler said he then ordered the teamsters to turn their wagons, and retreat on the Lewisburg pike. He said in the confusion that the

team of General Echols' ordnance wagon, became frightened, and whirled around, breaking the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after the war people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Major Henry H. Withers, of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, was a brave and fearless fighter. At the battle of Cedar Creek, he was rallying his men and getting hot, he threw off his coat and having on a gray shirt got mixed up with some prisoners that were being taken to the rear, and was arrested for an enemy and taken some distance to the rear, before his identity was known. He fought with great bravery at Droop Mountain.

Dr. T. M. Harris, of Harrisville, W. Va., was a physician of note, and when the Civil War came on he recruited the 10th West Virginia Infantry Regiment and became its Colonel. He served with distinction through the war. He commanded a division in the campaign from Richmond to Appomattox. Our Chairman, Mr. Sutton, saw him win his star, under the immediate eye of General Grant, at Fort Gregg, in the final assault on the Confederate defense at Petersburg, Virginia.

Hamilton Griggs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for a story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain he passed to a section so rough that he dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said: "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

Hon. Felix Sutton sent the following list of killed and wounded in the 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry.

Name	Rank	Co.	Remarks
James Pickens	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
Samuel Swecker	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
George Walton	Private	A	Gunshot wound in knee joint, right side
Benj. Moore	Private	C	Gunshot wound in left hip, ball retained
Isaac Burkhammer	Private	C	

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Isaac Burkhammer, Private...	C		Gunshot wound through left forearm
George Osborn, Corporal.....	C		Gunshot wound through right arm
Franklin Fisher, Private.....	D		Gunshot wound right thigh, middle third
John Queen, Private.....	D		Gunshot wound through left shoulder